

AMIR-2A/7  
Capt Lane/cag/4444  
Wrtm: 13 Apr 48

(Headquarters Fourteenth  
Air Force 1948)

HEADQUARTERS  
FOURTEENTH AIR FORCE, ADC  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

March 16, 1948

SUBJECT: Firing Range, ROTC Summer Camp, 1948, Orlando AF Base

TO: Commanding General  
Air Defense Command  
Mitchel Air Force Base  
New York

1. A summer camp of approximately 600 Air ROTC students will be held at Orlando Air Force Base during the summer of 1948. After careful survey of real estate at Orlando AF Base, it was found that it would not be possible to comply with regulations and establish a thousand-inch firing range on this base.

2. The area around Orlando AF Base, as well as the former Air Force Pinecastle Base, was surveyed, and a reservation still in the hands of the Jacksonville District Engineer known as the Pinecastle Army Air Field Turret and Rifle Range was found. This range is approximately 13 miles south of the Orlando AF Base, owned by Magnolia Ranch, Inc., and leased to the U.S. Government under lease No. W-09-026-eng-954, containing 640 acres. The Turret and Rifle Range meets the requirements for a thousand-inch range. The present status of the range is as follows:

a. The area was declared surplus to USAF needs and turned back to the Jacksonville District Engineer. About half of the area was dedudded when, owing to wet ground, the work of dedudding was halted. At present the ground is still too wet to complete dedudding.

b. Contact was made with the Jacksonville District Engineer, who advised that the property could be turned over to the Fourteenth AF for the months of June and July 1948 to complete qualifying of 600 Air ROTC students in 45-cal pistol and 30-cal carbine on a thousand-inch range. Contact was then made with the owner of Magnolia Ranch, Inc., Mr. George Terry, who is willing to rent the property to the Fourteenth Air Force for the months of June and July if the property is returned to him completely dedudded by that time. As a result of further conference with the Jacksonville District Engineer, it was learned (1) that the area could not be completed dedudded by that time; and (2) Magnolia Ranch, Inc., has requested a settlement under the restoration clause in the lease, which, it is believed by the Jacksonville District Engineer, will take a considerable length of time to settle.

3. Request, therefore, that immediate action be taken to have the area known as the Turret and Rifle Range, described in paragraph 3, now in the hands of the Jacksonville District Engineer, transferred to the Fourteenth Air Force for the months of June and July 1948 for use of the Air ROTC summer camp. Notification of action taken is requested.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl  
Layout Plan, Pinecastle AAFld,  
Turret & Rifle Range (7)

/s/ W. W. MILNARD  
Colonel, USAF  
Deputy Chief of Staff